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CLASSIFICATION SECRET

COUNTRY East Germany

TOPIC Military Information from Riesa

EVALUATION See below

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT 19 November to 18 December 1953

DATE OBTAINED 14

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REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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SOURCE

1. On 18 December 1953, the Mudra Kaserne, Riesa, was occupied to capacity by about 1,400 to 1,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport and tank insignia. Between 9 and 18 December, reports of rifles and machine guns were daily heard from within the barracks area. Source did not observe any other training. Trucks [redacted] [redacted] daily hauled construction material from the town to the installation. On 10, 14 and 18 December, sedans and jeeps, including [redacted] [redacted] occupied by senior officers with tank insignia, were repeatedly observed.

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2. On 18 December, the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne was occupied above capacity by about 800 to 900 troops. About 50 percent of the windows were lighted after nightfall. Sentries observed wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Source did not observe any training activity. Individual reports and continuous fire of machine guns and automatic rifles were heard from the barracks area. Motor vehicles seen entering and leaving the installation included [redacted]

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3. On 15 and 17 December, about 35 to 40 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with motor transport insignia practiced aiming with machine guns in the wood patch near Mergendorf in the Zeithain training grounds, while about 80 to 100 air force soldiers practiced firing with light machine guns and submachine guns at the Riesa-Heyda firing range. Source did not observe any other exercises, nor marches involving heavy weapons. All was quiet in Camp Zeithain, except for 14 and 15 December, on which days several individual reports of heavy guns were heard from the camp area. 2.

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4. On 28 November, the Von-der-Goltz Kaserne was occupied by about 1,000 to 1,200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including about 40 percent with tank insignia and about 20 uniformed women wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Source had the impression that quarters were occupied about 60 percent. On 26 November, about 60 troops received basic training and about 50 troops drill and close-combat training. Three 76.2-mm field guns were in the motor vehicle sheds. Three trucks, 1 half-track armored personnel carrier and 1 sedan were being serviced by 15 soldiers. About 30 troops practiced aiming and 9 troops with 2 x 50-mm mortars entered the installation. Motor vehicles seen entering and leaving the installation [redacted]

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5. On 28 November, the Mudra Kaserne was occupied about 90 percent by about 2,300 troops, including about 40 percent wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia, 10 percent wearing black-bordered black epaulets, 50 percent wearing red-bordered black epaulets and 40 uniformed women also wearing red-bordered black epaulets. About 40 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia, received basic training in the barracks yard and another 50 to 60 troops wearing black-bordered black epaulets engaged in drill. About 180 to 200 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and armed with machine guns, submachine guns and rifles had fallen in in the barracks yard. A jeep and eight trucks were seen with the troops. About 3 tank trucks, 1 sedan, 1 six-wheel armored personnel carrier and 7 trucks were observed in the barracks area. Motor vehicles seen entering and leaving the installation included the [redacted]

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- [redacted] 6. At 3:30 p.m. on 19 November, a shipment of 35 boxcars occupied by about 35 troops passed through the Riesa railroad station, proceeding toward Elsterwerda. [redacted] 3 [redacted] 25X1 At 10 a.m. on 5 December, a shipment of 1 boxcar and about 15 x 57-mm AF guns was seen at the Coswig freight station.

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1. [redacted] Comment. The information does not indicate any change in the occupation of the two installations over the last report of late November. [redacted]

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2. [redacted] reported Camp Zeithain heavily occupied prior to 23 [redacted] In, according to other reports, units of the 9th Tank Div had returned to Oelzitz from the Zeithain training area by 26 November, observations in this report, according to which the camp was vacant during the first half of December, and firing practices were held after 15 December, are believed to be correct.

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3. [redacted] Comment. The shipment is presumably identical with shuttle-train [redacted] which went from Chemnitz to Gotha on 19 November. [redacted] 25X1

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